

The Commission found: "That the charge is unfounded and that no agreement was made involving any improper consideration or motive whereby the late Government should resign and the present Government should obtain office."

As to the more general charges made by C. P. Fullerton and itemized at length in a petition signed by fourteen members of the legislature, all of whom had of course been thick and thin supporters of the late Roblin government, and most of whom were again nominated as candidates of the new "Independent" Aikins Conservative party, the Commission found that these also were all unfounded.

With respect to the conflict in the evidence of James Howden, former Attorney General in the Roblin Cabinet, and that of Premier Norris, the Commission unhesitatingly accepted the word of Premier Norris, and said "With regard to the improbabilities of Mr. Howden's narrative which themselves cast grave doubt upon it, we base our acceptance of Mr. Norris' statement UPON THE RESPECTIVE CHARACTERS OF THE TWO MEN AS REVEALED BY THE EVIDENCE."

This finding, utterly condemning a man who for many years held the sacred position of Attorney General, was explained by the Commissioners in the following words:

"Howden acknowledged that in the course of his political life he had descended to low standards in dealing with political matters and that he accustomed himself, in making communications, to suggestion rather than statements, and to drawing inferences from indefinite phrases or mere gestures. On the other hand, Sir Rodmond Roblin, although a strong political opponent, speaks highly of Mr. Norris' character and honesty. Sir Rodmond, in testifying, said "I never knew Mr. Norris to do a dishonorable thing in his life or suggest one. And I have had as confidential relations with him as it was possible for two men to have occupying the spheres that we have."

THE TORIES SWALLOW THEIR ALLEGED PRINCIPLES.

ALL Canada is laughing at the Tories in connection with their negotiation of the recent loan of \$45,000,000 in New York. Four years ago Liberals were branded as disloyal for proposing to truck, trade and deal with the Yankees; to-day the Tories gladly go to New York for the gold wherewith to pay for their extravagant expenditures. Poor Mr. White! It must have been a bitter pill for him to swallow; no wonder he is looking careworn. In 1911 he and the other stalwart sixteen time-serving Liberals of Toronto told us that Reciprocity surely meant that we would be swallowed up by the United States. Is he haunted now by similar fears, or is he, as we believe, merely smiling up his sleeve. We do not blame him for taking United States gold, but we would not be human if we failed to point out his inconsistency. We shall have more to say on this subject again because it is a most instructive commentary on inside Tory politics.

A THREE YEAR COMPARISON OF EXPENDITURES.

Under Liberals.

	Revenue	Ordinary Expenditures	Capital Expenditures	Total Expenditures
1910.....	\$101,503,710	\$79,411,747	\$35,984,026	\$115,395,773
1911.....	117,780,409	87,774,198	35,087,052	122,861,250
1912.....	136,108,217	98,161,440	38,980,642	137,142,082
	\$355,392,336	\$265,347,385	\$110,051,720	\$375,399,105
Total revenue.....				355,392,336
Added to public debt less sinking funds....				\$20,006,769

Under Conservatives.

	Revenue	Ordinary Expenditures	Capital Expenditures	Total Expenditures
1913.....	\$168,690,427	\$112,059,537	\$32,397,340	\$144,456,877
1914.....	163,174,394	127,384,472	58,856,575	186,241,047
1915.....	*130,000,000	140,000,000	50,000,000	190,000,000
	\$461,864,821	\$379,444,009	\$141,253,915	\$520,697,924
Total revenue.....				461,864,821
Shortage less sinking funds.....				58,833,103
Plus war expenditure.....				50,000,000
Total shortage.....				\$108,833,103

*Estimates given by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech of Feb. 11th, 1915.

In this statement we charge the Liberals with the year ended March 31st, 1912 for the reason that the expenditures of that year were largely based on the estimates prepared by them.

Here we see that the Nationalist-Conservatives spent \$114,000,000 more than the Liberals on ordinary expenditures and \$30,000,000 more on capital and special expenditures—not including an expenditure in 1914-15 for War estimated at \$50,000,000. The result of this madly extravagant career is that the national finances are now in terrible condition as disclosed in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister of Feb. 11, 1915.

Conservative Financial Management.

Under the Liberals, the ordinary expenditures of the country increased from \$36,000,000 in 1896 to \$87,000,000 in 1911, an increase of \$51,000,000, or at the rate of \$3,500,000 per annum, during the period when the country was developing at an extraordinary rapid rate. If we take the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1912, we find that the total ordinary expenditure was \$98,000,000. The Liberals went out of office in the middle of that year. Charging the Liberals up with the whole expenditure of that year, the total increase of expenditure during their regime was \$62,000,000, or at the rate of a little less than \$4,000,000 a year.

Sir Robert Borden, in one of his manifestos issued prior to the election of 1911, declared:

"The increase in what is known as ordinary controllable expenditure of \$36,000,000 in 1896 to \$79,000,000 in 1911 is proof of extravagance beyond any possible defence."

In public speeches he and other Conservatives